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ABSTRACT

This Critical Issue Bibliography (CRIB) sheet describes resources on the educational use of personal digital assistants (PDAs). It provides an overview, a section on the use of PDAs by teachers and in teacher education, a section on the use of PDAs by students and in classrooms, and a listing of a few of the many Internet resources on PDA use in educational environments. The annotated bibliography describes 11 resources in the ERIC database and 4 Internet resources. (SLD)

**Critical Issue Bibliography (CRIB) Sheet:**  
**Educational Uses of Personal Digital Assistants**

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This CRIB sheet was created in May 2002.

## **Critical Issue Bibliography (CRIB) Sheet: Educational Uses of Personal Digital Assistants**

The widespread use of Personal Digital Assistants (also known as PDAs or handheld computers) has extended to classrooms across the country. Teachers and students, from elementary schools to colleges and universities, are using PDAs for assessment, lesson plans, note-taking, writing assignments, and organization.

This bibliography provides information on the educational uses of PDAs. It provides an overview, a section on the use of PDAs by teachers and in teacher education, a section on the use of PDAs by students and in classrooms, and a listing of a few of the many Internet resources on PDA use in educational environments.

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### **OVERVIEW**

EJ623035

Stover, D. (2001 March). Hands-On Learning: *American School Board Journal*, 188, 3, pp. 28-29.

Originally marketed as a personal organizer for mobile business executives and ardent technophiles, the handheld computer is beginning to catch educators' notice. A handful of school districts are piloting large-scale use of these portable devices, ranging in price from \$149 to \$450.

EJ629323

Pownell, D., and Bailey, G. D. (2001 June). Getting a Handle on Handhelds: What To Consider Before You Introduce Handheld Computers in Your Schools. *American School Board Journal*, 188, 6, pp. 18-21, 48.

Handheld computers are just beginning to be introduced in schools. Before adopting the latest innovation, administrators must ask careful questions about issues and implications regarding leadership, teaching and learning, staff development, technology support, planning, infrastructure, safety and security, ethics, evaluation, curriculum, change, and equity.

EJ584296

Wishengrad, R. (1998 Winter) End of the Printed Line? *TECHNOS*, 7, 4, pp. 31-33.  
Considers whether laptop and handheld computers will be able to replace printed textbooks in

Considers whether laptop and handheld computers will be able to replace printed textbooks in classrooms. Topics cover benefits of classroom computers, including the need for computer literacy; computer costs, including service contracts, theft, and the need for staff development; the problems with dated textbooks; publishers' concerns; and electronic textbooks.

EJ604252

Dupont, S. (2000 March) Hard Hitters! *Instructor*, 109, 6, pp. 88-92.

Presents a selection of computers and peripherals designed to enhance the classroom. They include personal digital assistants (the AlphaSmart 30001R, CalcuScribe Duo, and DreamWriter IT); new Apple products (the iBook laptop, improved iMac, and OS 9 operating system); PC options (new Gateway and Compaq computers); and gadgets (imagiLab, the QX3 Computer Microscope, and Launch Pad).

## TEACHERS AND TEACHING EDUCATION:

ED402317

Green, J. C., and others (1995 November). *Newton and Learner Profile Issues: A First-Year Formative Evaluation of a District-Wide Experiment*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association (St. Petersburg, FL, November 1995).

In order to increase the efficiency and quality of performance assessment, the Leon County (Florida) Schools implemented a program in which teachers used the Apple Newton personal digital assistant and newly developed "Learner Profile" software program during 1994-95, in order to take observational and performance-based assessments in the classroom. The first year formative evaluation focused on distribution/configuration, set-up, training, early use, teachers' feelings about the program, and schools' future plans for using Newtons and Learner Profile. Evaluation results indicated that first year implementation required much training and technical support as well as much teacher practice time.

EJ610449

Crippen, K. J.; Brooks, D. W. (2000 September). Using Personal Digital Assistants in Clinical Supervision of Student Teachers. *Journal of Science Education and Technology*, 9, 3, pp. 207-11.

Indicates the importance of journaling for student teachers to reflect upon the nature of the teaching experience and the increasing of student and supervising teacher communication by e-mail. Describes flexible strategies using a personal digital assistant to facilitate the development of field notes during observations.

ED457843

Abramson, T., Ed. (2001 March). *Telecommunications: Preservice Applications*. Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference (12<sup>th</sup>, Orlando, Florida, March 5-10, 2001).

The conference papers contained in this document include: "The Handheld Web: Using Mobile Wireless Technologies To Enhance Teacher Professional Development" (Paul

Shotsberger).

## CLASSROOM AND STUDENT USE

EJ592330

Lang, M. (1999 May-June). Electronic Learning. Write On! *Instructor*, 108, 8, pp. 70-71.

Describes how personal digital assistants (PDAs) can help even the most reluctant young writers feel empowered. Designed to provide a one-computer-per-person ratio for an entire classroom, they offer interactive word processing at a low price. PDAs are useful because they are ready when the students are, they promote collaboration, and they make revisions easy.

EJ622454

Mason, C. L.; Dralle, A. (1999) Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: The History and Social Science Classroom. *Journal of Education*, 181, 3, pp. 1-11.

Discusses the use of personal digital assistants, which are hand-held computers, in history and social science classrooms, explaining that they offer possibilities for greater access to technology at a fraction of the cost of desktop or laptop computers. Describes how removed today's social studies classrooms, students, and teachers are from this vision.

ED457837

Roach, L. E., Ed. (2001 March) *Science*. {SITE 2001 Section}. Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference (12th, Orlando, Florida, March 5-10, 2001).

The conference papers contained in this document include: "Revolution in Hand: Handheld Computers in the Science Classroom" (Beverly Ray and others).

ED378755

Behrmann, M.M. (1995 January). *Assistive Technology for Students with Mild Disabilities*. ERIC Digest.

This informational digest considers assistive technology for students with mild disabilities in the context of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, which was designed to enhance the availability and quality of assistive technology devices and services to people with disabilities and their families. First, assistive technology devices are briefly described. Then seven areas (organization, note taking, writing assistance, productivity, access to reference materials, cognitive assistance, and materials modification) in which assistive technology can assist students with mild disabilities are explained with examples.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

Handheld Education.com

<http://www.handheldeducation.com/>

The purpose of this site is to help teachers and students improve teaching and learning through

the use of handheld computers. The content includes specially selected software downloads, reviews of products, and information on how to maximize the use of handheld computers in teaching and learning.

#### K12 Handhelds

<http://www.k12handhelds.com/>

K12 Handhelds is a company which focuses on handheld computing in education. It provides schools with integrated solutions for handheld use in education that include: planning, professional development, hardware, software and applications, educational bundles, implementation and support, and assessment.

#### Education@Palm

<http://www.palm.com/education/>

Latest information, from Palm, on what Palm is doing for education. Includes News and Events, Software Solutions, Success Stories, Programs, and Resource Library.

#### Palm Applications in Education

<http://pie.concord.org/>

Information and reviews on education applications. The reviews include an overall summary and ranking of each application, project starters, companion applications, and correlations to standards. Site is run by the Concord Consortium, a non-profit educational research and development organization.



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